ISP and VoIP

- Ouline:
  - OVUM recommendations
  - Notes for discussion
  - Discussion points and recommendations

OVUM Recommendations

- Rec 2: infrastructure-based competition for 3 years
  - Rec 16: review after 3 yrs
- Rec 5: Issue unlimited number of licenses for int. voice services and lift ban on VoIP once liberalisation undertaken
- Rec 7: Separate BTC's Int. wholesale ops. From rest of BTC and form Botswana Int. (customer + Government owned). Else BTA subject BTC Int wholesale ops. To accounting separation
  - Rec 13: reject full separation of BTC.

Notes for discussion

– Should

- Botswana implement infrastructure-based competition rather than service competition?

- BTC be required to offer carrier selection?

- BTA limit the number of licenses issued for internatioal voice services?

- BTC's int. wholesale ops. form core of new org. to purchase int. capacity on behalf of ISPs and retail int. service providers in Botswana?

- How and should government assist in national Internet Exchange?

Infrastructure vs. service based competition

- Infrastructure based
  - To avoid cherry picking by new entrants
  - Will allow provider to choose quality and service delivery levels
- But
  - Service based might benefit ordinary persons??

Issue unlimited no. of licenses for Int. voice services and lift ban on VoIP

- By a show of hands all except for one endorse the recommendation
- Further
  - They want the ban lifted now, since:
    - Already illicit VoIP
    - VoIP not a technology issue, a pricing one
    - The cheapest means of communication
    - Increase Botswana's competitiveness to attract inward investment
    - Deployment simple and cheap

VOIP continued …

- But:
  - Caution – costs to the industry/economy if BTC collapses
  - Law enforcement/location issues
  - Level of citizen participation in the new terrain
  - Need for BTC to rebalance its tariffs…

Botswana International

- Reject both full separation and Botswana International proposal
  - Model never worked anywhere else
  - Open up everything, but…
    - need for a consortia to buy higher bandwidth
    - Would probably need partnering with BTC (SAT 3 and East Africa undersea cable consortia)

Other issues..

- ISPs and BTC and others need to form an industry group to look into Internet Exchange
  - Dimension data volunteered to host first meeting
- Government monopoly on data (GDN) should be lifted (lone voice)
- ISPs prepared to move to paying revenue-based fees and not just fixed P3000 fee
- ISPs should be allowed to:
  - provide leased lines
  - Voice (pure), VoIP and data to allow for ability to run video conferencing